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THE DES REPORT

Fall 2015

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GM's Corner Changes

by Tim Hestle

Changes are taking place in and around Nashville. On Sept. 25, 2015, the inauguration of Mayor Megan Barry, Vice Mayor David Briley and new members of the Metropolitan Council took place in the Ballroom of the Music City Center. This was a historic occasion, as Mayor Barry is the first woman to hold the office of mayor in Nashville.

One of Mayor Barry's duties will be to appoint new members to the Metro Nashville District Energy System Advisory Board. Karen Bennett has been president of the board for the past several years. Since Bennett lost her bid to remain on the Metro Council as an at-large member, her board position will most likely be filled by a new Council member.

Former Mayor Karl Dean leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that have had a

positive impact on the community. He encouraged Nashvillians to live healthier lifestyles by initiating a bike share program, building new parks and walking paths, and personally participating in multiple marathon events. He promoted economic development, encouraging major corporations like HCA and Bridgestone Americas to build their corporate headquarters here. He is also credited with several prominent redevelopment projects that have changed the downtown landscape, including the Music City Center, First Tennessee Park (home of the Nashville Sounds) and the Ascend Amphitheater (located on the old Thermal site), to name a few. One of the major challenges Dean faced during his eight-year tenure was the flood of 2010. Through his guidance, the city made a full recovery.

The Nashville Downtown Partnership's purpose is to make downtown Nashville a compelling urban center to "Live, Work, Play and Invest." Dean embraced this motto and was successful in promoting and accomplishing these ideals. I am confident Mayor Barry will continue where Dean left off.

New condominiums, homes, retail space, restaurants, hotels and office buildings continue to go up in the Gulch, Germantown, downtown and the SoBro (south of Broadway) district. The George Jones Museum recently opened on Second Avenue. The old Trail West Building on Broadway and the Copper Kettle Building on Peabody have been demolished to make way for new developments. Lifeway Christian Resources is planning to relocate its corporate headquarters from the Gulch to SoBro, and plans are being made to redevelop the old Nashville Convention Center.

With all the building and development taking place around the Nashville District Energy generation facility, opportunities for growth are abundant. The District Energy System is currently near its capacity. Now is a great time to consider expanding the system. The installation of a gas-fired turbine generator, boiler, additional chiller and distribution piping would allow the plant to serve the larger buildings in the SoBro area, and it would also allow the plant to make electricity. This could be beneficial to the city, the plant and DES customers.

I look forward to seeing what the future holds working under Mayor Barry's leadership. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dean and Bennett for their service and wish them well in their future endeavors.



**Meet DES Contract Administrator
Representative Jon Belcher**

Metro Spotlight: Jon Belcher, Vice President and Senior Project Manager with Thermal Engineering Group

Thermal Engineering Group is in its 20th year as an independent consulting and design organization. It focuses on serving the specialized project needs of utility, industrial, institutional and municipal energy centers and central plants, with particular interest in the district heating and cooling, combined heat and power and waste-to-energy industries. TEG offers expertise in the clean and efficient production, utilization and dispatch of energy.

Jon Belcher is vice president and senior project manager with Thermal Engineering Group. He joined Thermal Engineering Group in 1996, and currently oversees the district energy system within the city as a Metro contract administrator representative. He is currently in the middle of the second five-year term with the city in this role.

Belcher is an experienced professional engineer with 29 years of experience. After he graduated from Tennessee Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mechanical engineering, his experience was mostly concerned with waste-to-energy plants and boiler plants. He says he first became interested in mechanical engineering in college through his physics class. Belcher enjoyed the mechanical engineering aspect the most, because it covered a broader spectrum than other aspects of engineering.

When Belcher's not busy working with Thermal Engineering Group or maintaining the DES system for Nashville, he enjoys spending time with family. He has four children, three with families of their own, and one 15-year-old at home. Belcher also enjoys cars and music, and plays instruments with different worship bands at his church.

We found time to catch up with Belcher in between his busy work and home life to chat about his role with Metro DES.

Q: What does your role as a Metro contract administrator representative entail? What responsibilities does it include?

Primarily my responsibilities consist of a lot of underground piping maintenance and upkeep. The district energy system uses a ton of underground piping to deliver steam and chilled water to customers on the system. A huge aspect of my role as a Metro contract rep is to, once per quarter, go into 25 percent of the manholes and tunnels in the city to review their conditions and see if the piping needs to have repairs made to it. From seeing 25 percent of these each quarter, I end up seeing all of them over one calendar year. That's definitely my most important role, but I also perform the design and administrative oversight of capital projects, or large maintenance projects, in the DES.

Q: What are the most challenging and most rewarding aspects of your job?

The hardest part about being a project manager and designing systems is communicating my ideas and visions to other people. It's important to make sure other people or contractors understand the design intent and that it is carried out correctly during the construction of a project.

My favorite part about my job is I get to solve problems. I love solving problems. I think it's fun, which is part of the reason I wanted to be a mechanical engineer in the first place.

Q: What have you learned from your role as a Metro contract administrator representative?

As a consulting engineer, you're ordinarily exposed to operations of systems in small doses at a time. By this, I mean you're typically exposed to the operation only while the project is occurring. This can be a few weeks or sometimes months. However, with the Metro DES, I have been exposed to this system's operation over a several-year period. We're in our second five-year term with the city, so I can say I've expanded my experience and knowledge having to do with the distribution system and operation maintenance of the design that it entails.

Q: What are some of the benefits of the DES in Nashville?

The biggest advantage for the city and customers is that it is an extremely efficient way for energy needs to be met. The plant's production and supply of steam and chilled water is spread out over several different customers, which means swings, loads and usages in one building differ from another. This helps level the load out and improves efficiency. This cannot be achieved by one building's having its own chillers or boilers.

Q: How have you seen the city change since your involvement began?

Nashville is busting at the seams. The expansion of services, the influx of new companies and new industries, and the population and popularity growth of Nashville is always increasing. The city is growing every day, and it's taxing the road system infrastructure. Traffic and growth are extreme in every city aspect. From jobs to population, there are industries and companies moving here all of the time. I think this will continue over the next 10 years, at least. People want to be here and don't want to leave. I hope the government and services provided can keep up with Nashville's growth.



Customer Spotlight:

War Memorial Building

We spoke with David Carpenter who has been the facility manager for the State Capitol Complex for five years. The State Capitol Complex includes the Tennessee Capitol building, the War Memorial building and plaza surface and the Legislative Plaza. David is responsible for the buildings, systems and customer service.

Q: This year is the War Memorial's 90th birthday. How have you all celebrated that milestone?

Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) coordinated and hosted a birthday party in the War Memorial auditorium on Monday, Sept. 21, which was the actual 90th anniversary of the building's dedication. It was a wonderful celebration of the facility's history, complete with birthday cake. Governor Bill Haslam unveiled a historical marker that will soon be installed on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Union Street. The ceremony participants represented the history of the auditorium.

Q: Does Metro DES supply both heating and cooling for the building? How long has the War Memorial been on the Metro DES system?

Yes, DES provides chilled and hot water for the facility. The War Memorial was built in 1925 with a radiator heating system. From 1957 to 1958, air conditioning was installed in the War Memorial auditorium and offices. Originally, the center and atrium areas were open to all four floors with windows, but it was decided that the atrium would become mechanical space, stacked deck AHUs to heat and cool each floor from the center. A cooling tower was placed on top of the building. The building transitioned to the DES Thermal Transfer plant when the Legislative Plaza was built from 1970 to 1972. During the planning phase of this project, the chillers, boilers and cooling tower were removed. The existing AHUs were connected to the Thermal plant, and we still use them.

Q: What has been your favorite event to-date at the War Memorial?

There have been so many great events. In May 2010, the Grand Ole Opry house was flooded, and the show moved back into the War Memorial auditorium for its first public performance in more than 60 years. It was a bittersweet moment; but it proved that, no matter what, the show must go on. In February 2011, Robert Plant and the Band of Joy recorded a show that was made into a DVD, and in January 2013, a tribute to Cowboy Jack Clement was performed with a star-studded lineup. The list goes on and on, so it's hard to choose one favorite.

Q: What's your role in managing the building?

I started working at the Capitol Complex in 2009. A quick response is that I'm responsible for the buildings, systems and customer service; but the scope of my responsibilities is actually very broad. The Capitol Complex consists of the State Capitol building, the War Memorial building and plaza surface, and the Legislative Plaza. I oversee facility maintenance and life safety systems, meeting tenant needs and supporting their endeavors, event management (large and small), project management, and day-to-day operational needs and communication. My excellent staff and I aim to please and support the state employees in any way we can.

Q: Tell us an interesting fact from the history of the War Memorial building.

Built as Tennessee's monument to the soldiers who served in WW I, approximately half of the construction funding for the building was appropriated by the state of Tennessee,

but the remaining half was funded by Davidson County and the City of Nashville. This was a truly joint effort from all sectors of government coming together to make a place to serve future generations. The War Memorial building is a very active venue with a diverse list of events. Lisa Budreau is the military curator for the Museum housed on the ground floor, located in the southeast corner of the building. Right now, she's working on a history of the War Memorial building. It will open on Nov. 7, 2015, and its theme will be "Remembering the DoughBoys."

Q: What makes the War Memorial special or unique when compared to other venues in Nashville?

It really is a facility for the people of Tennessee, from its original conception. The building is half performance hall and half state office building. The War Memorial plaza in front of the building offers visitors beautiful views of the downtown buildings. The War Memorial auditorium is the second oldest theater still in use for concerts in Nashville, after the Ryman. (And the Ryman was not built for that purpose.)

Q: What are the biggest challenges you and the War Memorial face in the foreseeable future?

It is 90 years old, and there are many things that still need to be addressed in the way of updates. It's really expensive to maintain these historic facilities, but there's no question that we have to find the money. The War Memorial building is a state treasure that has to be preserved. All of us who get to work here are passionate about our responsibility and seek opportunities to enhance the facility however we can.



Employee Spotlight:

William Tarver,
Plant Electrician

Metro DES selected William Tarver as the focus of this year's employee spotlight. We spoke to William, who has been a plant electrician at DES for the past 12 years. William works with various operations around Nashville, ensuring that all electric parts, including motors, pumps and controls, are functioning properly to keep Nashville running.

Q: How long have you worked at DES?

I began working for Metro DES in November of 2003, so I have spent almost 12 years with the company.

Q: What is your role at DES?

I work as a plant electrician for Metro DES. My main role is to keep everything running. I ensure that all the motors, pumps and controls are working together correctly so that the machines continue to operate. Every month, I make visits to various plants to ensure that everything is running smoothly and functioning correctly.

Q: Why did you decide to work for Metro DES?

In my previous job, I traveled frequently for work, all over the country. I quickly tired of the constant travel, and wanted to settle down in my hometown of Nashville, so I decided to pursue a job at DES.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job at DES?

The most rewarding part of my job is the satisfaction I get when my job is done well. I love working hard at the site and doing the best I can to ensure that everything is running smoothly.

Q: How would you describe DES' importance to the city of Nashville? How does your job specifically impact the city of Nashville?

Without DES, the entire system that keeps Nashville operating would fail. The maintenance work that we perform keeps Nashville up and running, so it is essential to the city.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your time at DES?

I can't choose one specific memory, since there have been so many. I'd say my favorite part of the job is working with the people here at DES. My co-workers are good people, and I enjoy getting to work closely with them.

Q: What is the biggest lesson you have learned as a result of your time at DES?

The biggest lesson I've learned is to work hard, do my job, and do it the best I can. I don't like doing tasks twice, so I've learned that if you focus and do it right the first time, you won't have to waste time fixing your mistakes.

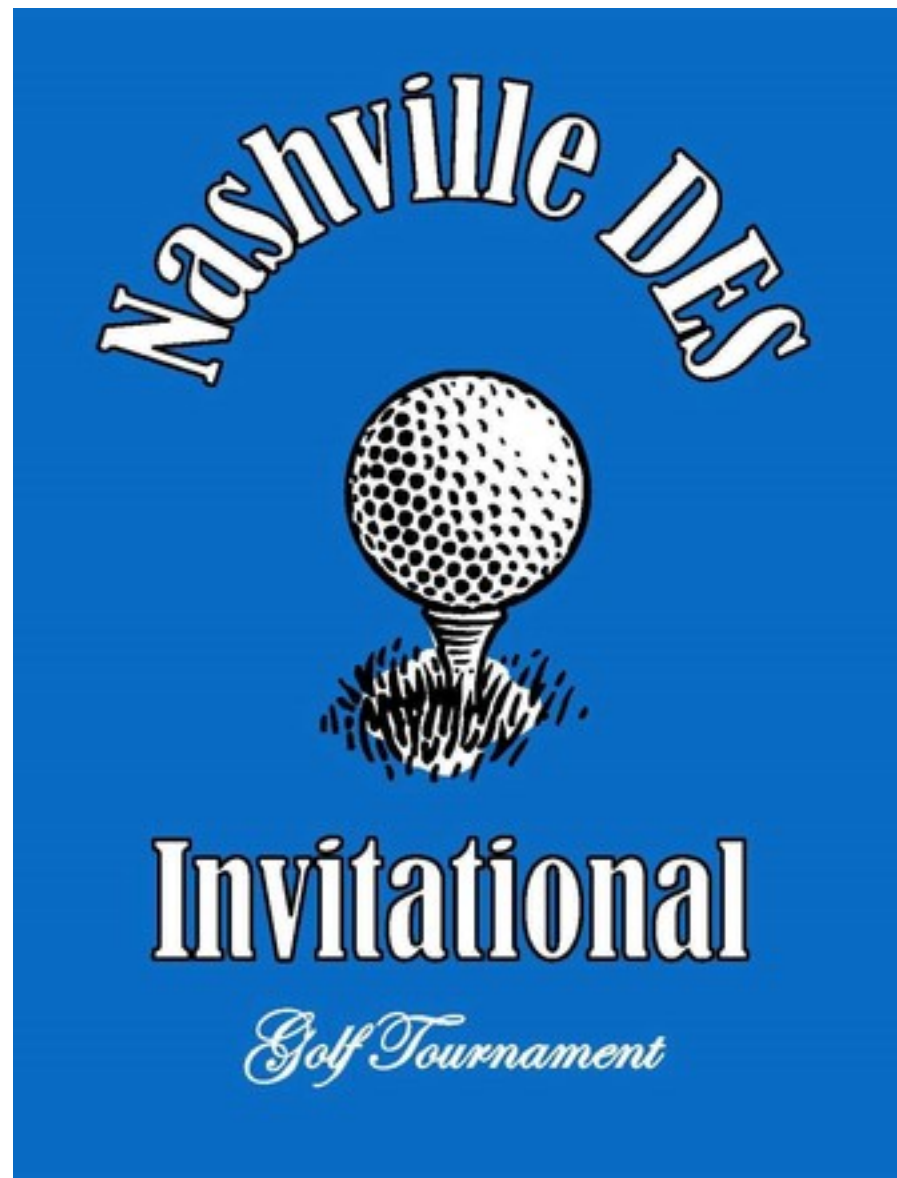
Q: What is the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is when systems fail, things go wrong, and we are under pressure to fix the problem quickly and keep everyone safe.

Q: Do you have any advice for individuals who are starting out in this career?

Be teachable. Pay attention to what experienced electricians are doing, and learn from them. Use your head, and get your hands dirty. You won't learn fully until you experience it, so once you've watched, don't be afraid to jump in and give it a go.

23rd Annual Nashville District Energy System Invitational Golf Tournament



On July 11, the 23rd annual Nashville District Energy System Invitational Golf Tournament took place at Indian Hills Golf Course in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This was the third time this event had been held at Indian Hills and the 12th consecutive year it was organized and sponsored by Constellation Energy. Employees, customers, contractors, vendors, family members and friends participated in the event.

The winning team, Bill Turner, Blain Turner, Gene Molloy and Jimmy Hatcher, achieved a score of 56, which is the lowest score recorded in the tournament's history.

Eric Rambo won the "Longest Drive" contest, and Blain Turner won the "Closest-to-the-

Pin” contest.

First-place team members and individual contest winners received a trophy and a cash prize.

Generous vendors sponsored holes and donated gifts as prizes. Constellation sponsored a Hole-in-One contest on all par-3 holes and provided a barbecue lunch for all participants. The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the dedicated work of the golf course staff. Based on participant comments, everyone enjoyed the tournament and is looking forward to next year.

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